



# FACT SHEET



## PINELLAS: SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE & REUSE

### Office of Worker & Community Transition

#### Background and Challenges

The Pinellas Plant occupies a 100-acre site six miles north of St. Petersburg in Largo, Florida. Largo is located on a peninsula bordered on the west by the Gulf of Mexico and on the east and south by the Tampa Bay. The Pinellas Plant has been part of the Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear weapons complex since 1957. The Plant's former mission was to manufacture neutron generators and other components. In 1993, the Department announced a decision to close the Plant and eliminate approximately 1,200 jobs as part of plans to reconfigure the nuclear weapons complex.

#### The Path to Progress

In August 1993, the Pinellas Community formed a task force consisting of state, local, political, business, and special interest organizations that would be affected by ending the Pinellas Plant mission. To help mitigate the effects of phasing out the weapons mission at Pinellas, the task force developed the Pinellas Plant Future Use Plan proposing activities to develop non-defense uses for the technology and work force. The original stakeholder structure evolved into the present Community Reuse Organization (CRO) in 1994, and was recognized by the DOE in January 1995.



The Pinellas Facility

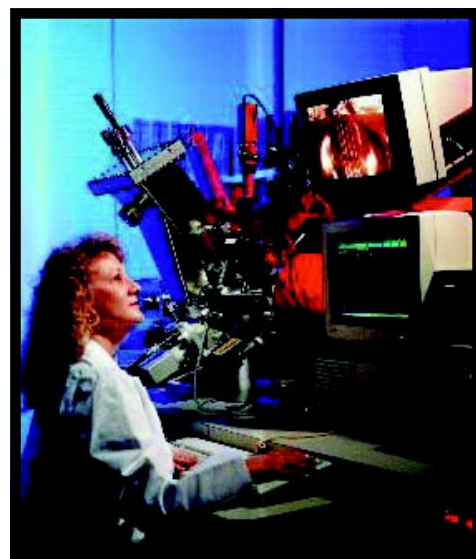
#### Community Success Stories

- The Plant was the first transfer of a Department nuclear defense production facility to a local government. It was renamed the Pinellas Science Technology and Research Center (STAR). The cleanup, closeout and economic development activities at the Pinellas Plant have resulted from hard work by men and women who, in many cases, were working themselves out of a job. It will serve as a model for other Department facilities to follow.



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- The Department ended 40 years of operations at the Pinellas Plant on September 30, 1997. Plant closure was initially scheduled for FY 2000; however, through the concentrated cooperative efforts of federal, state, county and contractor employees, closure was shortened by three years which saved the Department over \$29 million. These cost savings were realized, in large part, through the desire of the community, the Department, and the contractor to rapidly reuse the Plant.
- Today, 25 businesses with over 1,100 employees share the plant space, and is projected that more than 1,600 employees will be working in this former nuclear weapons facility by the year 2001. The Deployment Center has several technologies in the advance prototype/early commercialization stages that capitalize on the Plant's Cold War technical strengths. One example includes the APNEA mobile waste assay trailer, with partner Thermo Electron Corporation. This technology is based on the Pinellas Plant's expertise in neutron generators, and is one of two teams authorized by DOE to characterize nuclear waste barrels prior to transportation to the WIPP Storage Facility.
- Raytheon Systems Company announced on July 30, 1998 that it will relocate two of their manufacturing "centers of excellence" into the remaining 300,000 square feet completing full occupancy of the 702,000 square foot facility. U.S. Representative C.W. Bill Young called the agreement a "major development in our seven-year effort to convert the Pinellas STAR Center from its 40-year national security mission to its new role as a high technology center of excellence for Pinellas County."
- As of September 30, 1998, a total of \$17.8 million has been committed to the CRO; \$13.8 million of which has been spent. A total of 1,838 jobs have been created or retained resulting in a cost per job ratio of \$7,483, which compares favorably with the General Accounting Office estimate of \$30,000 of federal dollars spent to replace each job lost during base closure activities at Department of Defense sites.
- More than 90 percent of the Plant's displaced workers who were served by the Outplacement Center have met their personal transition goals.



A tenant performs work at the STAR Center.

## Contact Information

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